Nansemond River Light

Sept. 17, 2019

Nansemond River Light, at the confluence of the Nansemond and James Rivers in Virginia

Screwpile style lighthouse built in 1878.

NANSEMOND RIVER LIGHT

Name of Lighthouse: Nansemont River Light
Location: Located near Pig Point on east side of entrance to Nansemont River
Date Built: 1878
Type of Structure: Hexagonal cottage style screwpile lighthouse
Operational: No
Deactivated: 1935
Height: 36’
Foghorn: Yes
Builder: Lazaretto Lighthouse Depot

Construction Material: wooden
Tower Shape: Hexagonal
Relationship to Other Structure: Integral
Original Lens: Sixth order Fresnel lens
Characteristics: Fixed red
Range: 6 or 7 nautical miles
Status: destroyed

Historical information:

- The screwpile lighthouse was assembled at the Lazaretto Lighthouse Depot up in Baltimore. Some parts of the light were recycled from the Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse.
- In 1899 the light was upgraded to a fifth order Fresnel.
- The screwpile was dismantled in 1935 and a steel skeletal tower with an automated light was affixed to the platform.

The above was researched and drafted by Anne Puppa, a Chesapeake Chapter of the U.S. Light House Society volunteer.